

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT

Number: WIAB02-65

Date: February 7, 2003  
Expiration Date: 6/30/04  
69:128:jp:6769

TO: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY

SUBJECT: LWIA ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES—FEBRUARY 6, 2003

The minutes from the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, February 6, 2003, are attached for your review and information. The meeting was called to discuss shortcomings of the current rapid response system and to seek input for ways to make improvements. Please ensure that the minutes are provided to the appropriate staff.

If you have any questions regarding the minutes, please contact James Scholl, at (916) 657-4610.

/S/ BOB HERMSMEIER  
Chief  
Workforce Investment Division

Attachment

## LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

Thursday, February 6, 2003

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On February 6, 2003, the Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA) Advisory Committee met to discuss improving the process for the release of future rapid response funding.

Diego Haro, Deputy Director, Workforce Development Branch (WDB), thanked the group for attending the meeting which was scheduled with very short notice. Mr. Haro provided a brief history of the rapid response process in California, and expressed the Department's concerns with the current system. He indicated the goal for the meeting was to discuss how to allocate future rapid response resources in a way that best meets local area needs.

Bill Burke, Assistant Deputy Director, WDB, provided input on the latest status of the pending augmentation for the current year rapid response LWIA accounts. Based on meetings held earlier in the week, action is anticipated very soon.

Bob Hermsmeier, Chief of the Workforce Investment Division (WID), noted that no decisions would be made during the meeting but that he hoped there would be much discussion and input. He also told the group that because of the great importance of the work being done, minutes of the meeting will be sent to all LWIA administrators on Friday, February 7, 2003.

Bob noted the items important to EDD in any new system. He said that any future rapid response funding system must define and fund separately the required and allowable rapid response activities. Bob also indicated an interest by EDD in assuring the timely distribution of rapid response funds to the LWIAs. Also, for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) 25 percent Dislocated Worker account overall, the department wants to obtain the most outcomes for the least expense. There is also a need to assure that any funding system set up does not jeopardize California's chances of accessing Department of Labor's National Emergency Grants.

Michael Evashenk of WID, made a presentation that compared California's prior years' rapid response funding with the anticipated future year's rapid response funding. Michael also briefed on assumptions related to the pending federal budget and their implications for California.

Bob Hermsmeier then led a discussion of advisory group concerns with the current system for rapid response and possible options for improving the system.

Virginia Hamilton, Director of the California Workforce Association, suggested that the group should work on developing recommendations in four areas: policy, criteria, process, and education.

There was a lengthy discussion on the complex requirements of the WIA 25 percent program and the rapid response system and how they might be improved for the future.

The following is the consensus recommendation of the group:

## **Policy**

1. One half of the total California WIA 25 percent allocation will be set aside for rapid response activities.
  - Sixty percent of this amount will be set aside to the local areas as a guaranteed amount for rapid response activities for the program year. The distribution of this account will be based on the amount of rapid response funds received the prior year, less carryover. Target amounts will be released for planning purposes and the local areas will prepare a detailed and costed out plan for these funds. The plan will delineate both by cost and activity, the proposed use for required and allowable activities.
  - The remaining 40 percent will be used to fund local areas that apply competitively for additional rapid response activities. This process will require a detailed and costed out plan. "Competitively" means that all local areas may not receive additional funds from this account.
  - The process for both the 60 percent and 40 percent mentioned above will be completed by the beginning of the program year so that each LWIA has a known amount of rapid response funding early on in the program year.
  - The State will recover any unexpended 25 percent rapid response funds at the end of the year. There will be no carry forward of rapid response funding in the future.
2. The remaining 50 percent of the WIA 25 percent authority will be devoted to funding additional assistance needs of the LWIAs resulting from economic dislocations occurring throughout the year. Funding will be based on individual applications for each occurrence. The State will share criteria to be used as part of the evaluation process for project plans submitted for funding.

## **Education**

Ray Worden will work with the LWIAs to develop a paper for submission to WID by February 21. The paper will outline the current uses of rapid response funding in California, and will especially provide information on allowable activities and their importance to the whole rapid response system.

## **Process**

The WDB will present the recommendations to the EDD Directorate for their review. If approved, a directive will be developed and released outlining the process and timelines.